

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 L-03 H-03 PA-04 CU-04

SCI-06 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSF-04

NAS-01 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 011510Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5718

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES TALKS

1. TALKS ON EXCHANGES AGREEMENT OPENED THIS MORNING AT MFA. CZECHS HEADED BY MFA 6TH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY WITH OFFICIALS FROM MFA CULTURAL, LEGAL DEPARTMENTS. EMBASSY REPRESENTED BY WORTZEL AND KLECKA. ATMOSPHERE VERY CORDIAL AND RELATIVELY INFORMAL.
 2. CZECH OPENING STATEMENT, SPIRIT OF WHICH WAS REPEATED THROUGHOUT SESSION, NOTED THAT CZECHS SAW NO MAJOR PROBLEMS IN CONTENT OF US DRAFT. CZECHS STRESSED DESIRE TO CONTINUE IMPROVING RELATIONS AND FOCUS ON POSSIBILITIES RATHER THAN PROBLEMS.
 3. AS FIRST STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC POSITION CZECHS ASKED FOR CONCLUSION OF SEPARATE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENTS, STATING THAT THEIR INTERNAL BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE REQUIRES THIS. AS EXAMPLE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS CONTROLLED BY FEDERAL MINISTRY (FMTIR) WHILE CULTURAL BY SEPARATE CZECH AND SLOVAK MINISTRIES. CZECHS ALSO NOTED THAT CZECH REGULATIONS BINDING ON MFA WOULD REQUIRE SEPARATE AGREEMENTS.
 4. WORTZEL REPLIED THAT IMPLEMENTING MECHANICS OF AGREEMENT
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IS INTERNAL MATTER FOR EACH GOVERNMENT. CENTRAL CONSIDERA-

TIONS WERE THAT AGREEMENT WAS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AS WHOLE AND THAT WE WERE ESTABLISHING BASIS FOR COMMON RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, BOTH CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC. SINGLE AGREEMENT COULD TAKE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES INTO ACCOUNT.

5. CZECHS THEN SUGGESTED QUESTION OF SEPARATE AGREEMENTS BE POSTPONED IN FAVOR OF DISCUSSING SUBSTANCE OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

6. CZECHS ALSO STRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR IMPLEMENTING PLANS OR PROTOCOLS FOR CONCRETE EXCHANGES AND ACTIVITIES, OF ONE OR TWO YEARS' DURATION, TO BE DRAWN UP ALTERNATELY IN WASHINGTON AND PRAGUE.

7. MEETING ENDED WITHOUT FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AND WITH MFA TO SET DATE OF NEXT SESSION.

8. ZANTOVSKY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER CZECHS WOULD ANNOUNCE OPENING OF TALKS, BUT PROMISED TO INFORM US IN ADVANCE IF THEY DID.
WORTZEL

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